

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system for providing a local computer user with detailed activity information regarding remote users, in order to assist the local user in determining whether to initiate a communication session with a remote user. The system provides activity information describing the number of instant messaging sessions one or more remote users are currently involved in, the identities of participants in those sessions, activity levels, time
10 period information, and other information. The system further provides detailed activity information describing recent instant messaging sessions of one or more remote users.